

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

SMITH, Lamar (Republican)  
Representative, 21st District, Texas  
Elected 1986 to 100th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



### BACKGROUND

Born: San Antonio, Texas - 19 November 1947

Home: San Antonio, Texas

Marital status: Wife (Elizabeth) - 2 children (by first wife)

Religion: Christian Scientist

Education: Yale, BA, 1969; Southern Methodist Univ School of Law, JD, 1975

Military: None specified

Profession: Lawyer, rancher

Political: Bexar Cnty Republican Party Chmn, 1978-81; TX House, 1981-2; Bexar County Commission, 1983-5; in 1985, won the GOP primary and then the general election by more than 60% of the vote, succeeding Rep Loeffler who unsuccessfully sought the GOP Senate nomination. Reelected in 1998 with 91% of the vote; in 2000 with 76%; and in 2002 with 73%.

Rep Smith is a conservative who believes higher immigration levels will increase joblessness and crime and reduce wages. At the start of the 103d Congress, left the Science Cmte for a seat on Budget. Was critical of the FY94 Budget Resolution stating it would decimate the armed forces. Accused the Army of pilfering technology of a TX-based contractor concerning a combat identification program. In the 104th Congress, concentrated his efforts in the first session on his legislation to overhaul immigration policy.

In the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress voiced support for San Antonio to be one of three Tricare sites selected for a 3-year trial program of medical care for military retirees. Has criticized the Clinton Administration's decision to withdraw military observers working with the Border Patrol along the US-Mexican border in the wake of a May 1997 shooting incident. Appointed 29Sep97 to the House Ethics Cmte. Signed Texas Delegation letters criticizing Air Force's plan to move Lackland AFB's 820<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Group to Moody AFB, GA, and transfer of some of Kelly AFB's ALC equipment to Robins AFB, GA's, ALC. (San Antonio Express-News, 10 & 15Jul98) Commenting on the Blackhawk shutdown claims issue noted that during a hearing on the subject the Pentagon was unable to provide credible answers for why they did not treat Americans in the same manner as the foreign families. (CR, 21Oct98)

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, commenting on the Senate introduction of S.258, a bill calling for base closure rounds in 2001 and 2003, said he would oppose an legislation that threatens to reduce readiness any more. (San Antonio Express-News, 21Jan99) Issues scathing report and said Justice and Defense Departments undermined criminal investigations into the 1997 Marine-civilian Texas border shooting incident. (Dallas Morning News, 30Jan99) Sought probe into Lackland AFB's 341<sup>st</sup> Training Squadron alleged "Buy America Act" violation of the purchase of European-bred military working dogs. (San Antonio Express-News, 1Sep99)

Prior to 108<sup>th</sup> Congress he represented Goodfellow AFB.

Additional: Bexar County Chmn, Sen Gramm's campaign, 1984. Wife Jane died 3Jan91; remarried (Elizabeth) in Mar92.

AF Bases: None

### COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY -- Subcs on Crime, Chairman; Immigration and Claims, Constitution

SCIENCE -- Subcs on Research; Space and Aeronautics  
JOINT ECONOMIC CMTE